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Jeffrey T. Haley
GRAYBEAL JACKSON HALEY LLP
Suite. 350
155-108th Avenue N.E.
Bellevue, WA 98004-5901

EXAMINER

WASHBURN, DOUGLAS N

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

2863

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/644,694 | Applicant(s) LANDER, RONALD JON | |
| | Examiner Douglas N. Washburn | Art Unit 2863 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-19, 21, 22 and 25-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-19, 21, 22 and 25-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1 The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 7-14, 16-19, 21, 22 and 25-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kmack et al. (US 6, 304, 851) (Hereafter referred to as Kmack) in view of Hallberg, B; Kinkoph, S; Ray, W; "USING MICROSOFT EXCEL 97"; Que, Indianapolis, Ind.; 1997; pp 31, 252 and 253 (Hereafter referred to as Hallberg).

Kmack teaches:

For each task of a plurality of observed tasks (column 8, lines 21-29), a display (touchscreen; column 8, lines 48-51) presents a plurality of icons (buttons; column 8, lines 54-57), each icon comprising a pictorial representation of a generic task and each icon being a selectable option (user defined; column 8, lines 54-57) to describe the task (column 8, lines 36-39) in regard to claim 1;

A chronometer accepts input from a user to select (select...using...touchscreen; column 8, lines 48-51) an icon to characterize a task (column 8, lines 8-12) in regard to claim 1;

A data carrier containing a computer program which, when run on a general purpose computer, causes the computer to be a chronometer (column 8, lines 1-4) in regard to claims 2, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 22, 26, 28, 30 and 32;

A data carrier is a memory device (column 7, lines 58-65) in regard to claims 3 and 18;

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A data carrier is an electronic signal (column 8, lines 5-8) in regard to claims 4 and 19;

An icon represents an unknown task and selection of this icon by a user allows the user to enter a textual description of the task (column 8, lines 54-57) in regard to claim 7;

Icons are loaded into a memory of a chronometer by copying from an external memory coupled to the chronometer (column 8, lines 5-8) in regard to claims 9 and 29;

Icons are presented on a touch screen and input from a user is accepted from the touch screen (column 8, lines 48-50) in regard to claim 11;

Data sets collected for each of a plurality of tasks which all have the same generic selected icon are associated together by a shared icon for subsequent processing together (column 5, lines 16-30) in regard to claims 13 and 31;

A data carrier containing a plurality of icons, each icon comprising a pictorial representation of a generic task and each icon being suitable for selection to identify a task to be observed in a time study, for copying into a time studies chronometer with a changeable display for presenting the icons on the display (column 8, lines 29-39) in regard to claim 17;

For each of a plurality of tasks to be observed, a display presents a plurality of generic task characterization icons, each icon comprising a pictorial representation of a characterization of a task and each icon being suitable for selection to characterize a task (column 8, lines 40-48) in regard to claim 21;

A chronometer accepts input from a user to select one task characterization icon (column 8, lines 8-12) in regard to claim 21;

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Options include a characterization of value added or no value added (column 12, lines 9-13) in regard to claim 25;

Presented icons include a characterization of a method of inspection wherein icons comprise representations of sight, touch, and device (column 8, lines 17-20; figure 1) in regard to claim 27;

And optional characterization icons are loaded into a memory of a chronometer by copying from an external memory coupled to the chronometer (column 8, lines 5-8) in regard to claim 29.

Kmack does not fully teach an icon comprising a pictorial representation of a generic task in regard to claims 1-4, 7-19, 21, 22 and 25-32.

Hallberg teaches an icon comprising a pictorial representation of a generic task (changing button and menu images; pp 252 and 253) in regard to claims 1-4, 7-19, 21, 22 and 25-32.

In regard to claims 1-4, 7-19, 21, 22 and 25-32, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the instant invention to modify the teaching of Kmack of a display presents a plurality of icons, each icon comprising a pictorial representation of a generic task and each icon being a selectable option with the teaching of Hallberg of an icon comprising a pictorial representation of a generic task because a user could have associated or created different icons to represent specific elements (tasks).

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Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kmack in view of Hallberg and further in view of Sellie, Sr. (US 5,557,553)(Hereafter referred to as Sellie).

Kmack teaches:

For each task of a plurality of observed tasks, a display presents a plurality of icons, each icon comprising a pictorial representation of a generic task and each icon being a selectable option to describe the task (column 8, lines 36-39) in regard to claim 1;

A chronometer accepts input from a user to select an icon to characterize a task (column 8, lines 8-12) in regard to claim 1;

Hallberg teaches an icon comprising a pictorial representation of a generic task (changing button and menu images; pp 252 and 253) in regard to claims 1-4, 7-19, 21, 22 and 25-32.

Kmack does not fully teach a means for subsequent processing of collected time data by computing at least one of range, distribution, standard deviation, mean, or median in regard to claim 15.

Sellie teaches a means for subsequent processing of collected time data by computing at least one of range, distribution, standard deviation, mean, or median (column 15, lines 4-13) in regard to claim 15.

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Regarding claim 15, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the instant invention to modify the teaching of Kmack of a display presents a plurality of icons, each icon comprising a pictorial representation of a generic task and each icon being a selectable option to describe the task and with the teaching of Hallberg of an icon comprising a pictorial representation of a generic task with the teaching of Sellie of a means for subsequent processing of collected time data by computing at least one of range, distribution, standard deviation, mean, or median because "time and motion study reports may be used to ... identify a change in the work process of the ... operation to improve how they service ... outlets".

Response to Amendment

2 Applicant amendment overcomes objection to claim 15 and the objection is withdrawn.

Applicant amendment overcomes §102(e) rejection of claims 1-4, 7-19, 21, 22 and 25-32 and the rejection is withdrawn.

Applicant amendment overcomes §103(a) rejection of claim 15 and the rejection is withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

3 Applicant's arguments have been fully considered are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Applicant's arguments, filed 12 December 2005, with respect to claims 1-4, 7-19, 21, 22 and 25-32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Applicant argues the Kmack patent does teach or suggest icon.

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Examiner notes Kmack teaches button (icon) (column 8, lines 54-57). Further, Kmack discloses "Examples of application programs that may be utilized to study or analyze the data and information include Microsoft.RTM. Access and Excel (a trademark of Microsoft Corporation, Washington, USA). "(column 8, lines 35-39). Microsoft Access and Excel are both applications which were well known and widely distributed at the time of the instant invention and which provide a user means for creating custom graphical/pictorial depictions (ie. toolbars, menus and buttons). In particular, a user would have means for creating an icon for any task desired (see Hallberg, B; Kinkoph, S; Ray, W; "USING MICROSOFT EXCEL 97"; Que, Indianapolis, Ind.; 1997; pp 31, 252 and 253). Therefore Kmack clearly suggests display and selection of icons. The examiner maintains Kmack anticipates the broadly claimed limitations of the instant invention in regard to claims 1-4, 7-19, 21, 22 and 25-32.

Conclusion

4 Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas N. Washburn whose telephone number is (571) 272-2284. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 6:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Barlow can be reached on (571) 272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DNW


John Barlow
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800